

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 7, the independent claims, have been amended.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from EP 0122432 B1 (Morita) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,543,565 (Oberstein).

Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 7, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of forming and transmitting signals from a fire alarm unit to a receiving-monitoring instrument via a communication line with the aid of a transmitting device which is a part of the fire alarm unit. The method includes self-testing operability of the fire alarm unit and determining a value of a monitored fire factor. The fire alarm unit is additionally provided with a logic device for comparing the value of the monitored fire factor with a permissible value. The signals including (1) a first signal indicating the operability of the fire alarm unit as judged from the self-testing and (2) a second signal indicating that the permissible value of the monitored fire factor has been exceeded are transmitted in an analog mode such that simultaneous transmission of the first and second analog signals carrying different information is performed via the same communication line.

At the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Advisory Action, the Examiner states:

Applicant's arguments are narrower than what is actually claimed in claims 1-9. Nowhere do the claims limit the inventions to making simultaneous transmission of two analog signals carrying different information via the same communication line.

Applicant has now amended claim 1 (and independent claim 7, in a similar fashion), to make it even more clear that the signals include (1) a first signal indicating the operability of

the fire alarm unit as judged from the self-testing and (2) a second signal indicating that the permissible value of the monitored fire factor has been exceeded are transmitted in an analog mode such that simultaneous transmission of the first and second analog signals carrying different information is performed via the same communication line.

Accordingly, claim 1 is seen to be patentable over Morita and Oberstein, whether considered either separately or in any permissible combination.

Independent claim 7 recites features which are similar in many relevant respects to those discussed above in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, claim 7 is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted



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